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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SAN JOSE DIVISION

CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.,

28 Plaintiff,

vs.

ARISTA NETWORKS, INC.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 5:14-cv-5344-BLF

**CISCO'S OPPOSITION TO ARISTA'S  
CORRECTED NOTICE OF MOTION  
AND MOTION TO STRIKE EXPERT  
OPINIONS AND TESTIMONY OF DR.  
KEVIN C. ALMEROOTH**

**REDACTED VERSION**

Date: September 9, 2016  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Dept: Courtroom 3 - 5th Floor  
Judge: Hon. Beth Labson Freeman

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1 Plaintiff Cisco Systems, Inc. (“Cisco”) hereby respectfully opposes Defendant Arista  
 2 Networks, Inc.’s (“Arista”) Corrected Motion to Strike Expert Opinions and Testimony of Dr.  
 3 Kevin C. Almeroth (Dkt. 420, “Motion” or “Mot.”) based on the Memorandum of Points and  
 4 Authorities below; the Declaration of John Neukom that is being filed herewith; and such other  
 5 and further papers, evidence and argument as may be submitted to the Court in connection with  
 6 the hearing on this Motion.

7 **I. INTRODUCTION**

8 Arista’s Motion does not challenge the qualifications of Cisco’s technical expert on  
 9 copying—Professor Kevin Almeroth, Ph.D. Arista instead moves to strike highly relevant  
 10 testimony from Professor Almeroth related to source code similarities; Arista’s admitted copying  
 11 of the “look and feel” of Cisco’s CLI; facts underlying Professor Almeroth’s copying opinions;  
 12 unspecified claims of “vouching”; and Arista’s admitted copying of Cisco’s copyrighted technical  
 13 documents. As explained below, none of these arguments has merit, and Cisco respectfully  
 14 requests that Arista’s Motion be denied.

15 **II. ARGUMENT**

16 **A. Professor Almeroth Should Not Be Excluded From Offering Opinions About  
 17 “Source Code” Similarities**

18 Arista argues that two of Professor Almeroth’s “source code” opinions relating to Arista’s  
 19 “parser” and “help description” copying should be rejected because they are purportedly  
 20 unreliable. This claim has no merit: Professor Almeroth’s opinions are firmly rooted in decades  
 21 of technical experience, hundreds of hours of case-specific analysis, as well as his review of Arista  
 22 and Cisco source code, Arista devices, Arista documents and Arista witness testimony.

23 **1. Professor Almeroth Thoroughly Analyzed Source Code and  
 24 Formulated Reliable Opinions That Parser Functionality Is Similar**

25 Arista contends that Professor Almeroth’s opinion that Arista’s EOS parser is similar to  
 26 Cisco’s parser in certain respects is unreliable for various reasons. Mot. at 3. All of Arista’s  
 27 complaints fall flat. First, Arista complains that Professor Almeroth’s use of the term “non-  
 28 standard” when describing the similarities between the two parsers functionality is objectionable  
 because “[h]e provides no data to support his conclusion, nor any method for evaluating the

1 ‘standard’ nature of code” and merely relied on his “expertise.” Mot. at 3-4. This argument is  
 2 legally incorrect. There is nothing “unreliable” about a technical expert relying on his or her  
 3 relevant experience to formulate expert opinions.<sup>1</sup> Fed. R. Evid. 702, Adv. Comm. Notes (2000)  
 4 (“Nothing in this amendment is intended to suggest that experience alone—or experience in  
 5 conjunction with other knowledge, skill, training or education—may not provide a sufficient  
 6 foundation for expert testimony.”). Numerous courts have held that an expert’s reliance on  
 7 experience to formulate technical opinions is proper. *See Icon-IP Pty Ltd. v. Specialized Bicycle*  
 8 *Components, Inc.*, 87 F. Supp. 3d 928, 946 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (“The Ninth Circuit has found  
 9 opinions based on an expert’s experience in the industry to be proper[.]”); *Radware, Ltd. v. F5*  
 10 *Networks, Inc.*, No. 13-cv-02024-RMW, 2016 WL 590121, at \*20–21 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 13, 2016)  
 11 (same). As Professor Almeroth explained at his deposition, his characterization of “non-standard”  
 12 functionality means that “[i]t’s not the typical way that you would do the kind of rule-matching  
 13 that’s described in the two parsing systems,” which is an opinion firmly rooted in his background  
 14 and “experience in programming parsers,” which Arista does not challenge. Almeroth Tr.  
 15 (Declaration of Ryan K. Wong, Dkt. 419 (“Wong Decl.”) Ex. 3) at 279:12-14, 16-17, 280:4-5,  
 16 281:6-12. Indeed, Arista does not dispute that Professor Almeroth is a qualified technical expert  
 17 in computer science and networking. He has 35 years of experience with computer software and  
 18 has reviewed “innumerable” lines of source code written by many different programmers over  
 19 those 35 years. Opening Rpt. (Declaration of John M. Neukom (“Neukom Decl.”) Ex. 1) at ¶ 29.<sup>2</sup>  
 20 He teaches university courses in the operation of the network devices at issue in this case  
 21 including command line interface programs and the underlying software that runs those programs.  
 22 *Id.* He has analyzed source code of roughly ten network device vendors including Cisco, Arista,  
 23

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24 <sup>1</sup> In fact, Arista’s expert Dr. Black relied on his own “experience” on numerous occasion to  
 25 support his opinions in this case. *E.g.*, Black Tr. (Neukom Decl. Ex. 3) at 109:10-20 (“all of my  
 26 experience with Cisco products help inform my opinions”); Black Tr. (Declaration of Andrew M.  
 Holmes, Dkt. 431 (“Holmes Decl.”)) Ex. 4 at 151:19-24 (“I’m going based on my recollection of  
 my experiences in the past”), *id.* at 152:7-9 (“I … remembered the experiences I had”).

27 <sup>2</sup> References to “Opening Report” or “Opening Rpt.” refer to Professor Almeroth’s Opening  
 28 Expert Report. References to “Rebuttal Report” or “Rebuttal Rpt.” refer to Professor Almeroth’s  
 Rebuttal Report.

1 A10, 3Com, Quagga, and Foundry, among others. Almeroth Tr. (Neukom Decl. Ex. 2) at 9:1-  
 2 10:12, 13:24-14:2. He has spent many hours interacting with various network device vendors  
 3 operating systems including Cisco, Arista, HP, 3Com, Bay, Nortel, IBM, Juniper, Wellfleet,  
 4 Netgear, D-Link, Brocade, and Foundry. *Id.* at 12:9-19, 13:7-14:2. And Professor Almeroth  
 5 explained that his 35 years of experience have given him the expertise to understand the different  
 6 ways that programs (*e.g.*, parsers) are written to solve similar problems: “What I have found in my  
 7 decades of experience is that engineers and programmers find many ways to write commands and  
 8 programs to express solutions to the same problem.” Opening Rpt. (Neukom Decl. Ex. 1) at ¶ 30;  
 9 Almeroth Tr. (Wong Decl. Ex. 3) at 285:21-25 (“So it’s based on my experience in the use of  
 10 parsers and the design of parsers and the way that they operate....”). Arista’s complaints are thus  
 11 legally erroneous and any issues Arista would like to raise about this testimony are more properly  
 12 addressed during cross examination.

13 Second, Arista complains that Professor Almeroth failed to “provid[e] any facts” to  
 14 support his parser-related source code opinions. This claim is contradicted by the record.  
 15 Professor Almeroth spent hundreds of hours analyzing the evidence and formulating his opinions  
 16 in this case. Almeroth Tr. (Neukom Decl. Ex. 2) at 50:11-14; Opening Rpt. (Wong Decl. Ex. 1) at  
 17 ¶ 37; Opening Rpt. (Neukom Decl. Ex. 1) ¶ 47. He analyzed “certainly, thousands of lines of  
 18 code for both Cisco and Arista,” and testified that he “would be surprised if it was less than a  
 19 million lines of code.” Almeroth Tr. (Wong Decl. Ex. 3) at 67:11-68:21. In his Opening Report,  
 20 Professor Almeroth explained in detail, with citations to Arista’s source code, the features of  
 21 Arista’s EOS parser that Professor Almeroth concluded are similar to Cisco’s. Opening Rpt.  
 22 (Wong Decl. Ex. 1) at ¶¶ 82-86. Professor Almeroth provided specific evidence in the form of  
 23 citations to Arista’s EOS parser source code, such as “Mode CliParser.py,” “ConfigModeBase  
 24 BasicCli.py,” “GlobalConfigMode BasicCli.py,” “CliRule.py,” and “addCommand,” when  
 25 describing the operation of Arista’s EOS parser. *Id.* Exhibit Copying-6 to Professor Almeroth’s  
 26 Opening Report also pin cites hundreds of lines of Arista source code that support his opinions  
 27 related to source code similarities, as he explained at his deposition. Almeroth Tr. (Wong Decl.  
 28 Ex. 3) at 287:8-25 (“There are similarities that are based on what you can see on the screen, but

1 it's also, as part of the analysis I did, similarities that exist within the source code.").

2 Third, Arista's claim that Professor Almeroth failed to "contend that Arista had access to"  
 3 Cisco's source code or that "the Arista engineers who wrote Arista's parser had access to Cisco's  
 4 source code" misrepresents the totality of the record. Mot. at 3-4. The Court does not need to  
 5 look any further than the table of contents in Professor Almeroth's Opening Report to see that  
 6 Arista's claim is wrong. An entire section of the Opening Report, titled "Arista Had Access To  
 7 Cisco's Copyrighted Works & Admitted Copying," cites [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] Further, in Paragraph 143 of his Opening Report,  
 14 Professor Almeroth pointed out that numerous Arista executives and engineers are former Cisco  
 15 executives and engineers, one of whom is Arista's CEO, who claims to have "built" Cisco's  
 16 products. *Id.* ¶ 143. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 Arista's argument that Professor Almeroth "made no 'effort to rule out other possible  
 22 causes' of the alleged functionality similarities" is thus baseless. Mot. at 6 (citing *Claar v.*  
 23 *Burlington N.R.R.*, 29 F.3d 499, 502 (9th Cir. 1994)). In *Claar*, two expert opinions were  
 24 excluded because, *inter alia*, the experts intentionally ignored other potential causes of plaintiff's  
 25 injuries that the experts had "admitted ... would be standard procedures before arriving at a  
 26 diagnosis." *Claar v. Burlington N. R. Co.*, 29 F.3d 499, 502 (9th Cir. 1994). Professor Almeroth  
 27 has never admitted to ignoring any "standard procedures" in formulating his opinions, and neither  
 28 has Arista identified any such "standard procedures" that were ignored. Professor Almeroth

1 instead analyzed millions of lines of source code, relied on his 35 years of experience, and then  
 2 took the additional steps of reviewing Arista witness testimony and Arista documentation prior to  
 3 reaching his ultimate conclusions: “And I think that the distinction with respect to what Arista has  
 4 done in the context of all of the evidence of copying, and in light of this particular [source code]  
 5 evidence, is completely different and quite overwhelming as compared to a comparison of the  
 6 commands alone in the instance of Dell.” Almeroth Tr. (Wong Decl. Ex. 3) at 283:4-17.

7 None of the other cases cited by Arista support its requested relief either:

- 8 • *Schudel v. General Electric Co.*, 120 F.3d 991 (9th Cir. 1997), *Stilwell v. Smith & Nephew, Inc.*, 482 F.3d 1187 (9th Cir. 2007), and *Domingo ex rel. Domingo v. T.K.*, 289 F.3d 600, 10 606 (9th Cir. 2002) are products liability/exposure and medical malpractice cases that 11 provide no guidance for assessing “reliability” or “scientific acceptance” in the field of 12 computer science or source code analysis. Indeed, *Domingo* upheld the exclusion of a 13 novel medical theory linking extensive malleting to FES that had never before been written 14 about, could be supported only by non-human animal studies, and contained logical flaws.
- 15 • *Finjan, Inc. v. Blue Coat Sys., Inc.*, No. 13-cv-03999-BLF, 2015 WL 4272870 (July 14, 16 2015) supports denying Arista’s Motion. Although this Court excluded an expert who had 17 “disclose[d] no methodology other than to assert that he ‘personally perform [] tests on the 18 Accused Products,’ the Court refused to exclude expert opinions from two other experts 19 who, like Professor Almeroth, “disclosed their testing methodology and the results that 20 they observed” and had been “deposed and thus subjected to unfettered questioning 21 regarding their testing.” *Id.* *Finjan* thus shows that Arista’s Motion is a challenge “not so 22 much to the reliability of [Professor Almeroth’s opinions] as it is to the sufficiency of [his] 23 disclosures,” and should be denied. *Id.*
- 24 • *XpertUniverse, Inc. v. Cisco Sys., Inc.*, No. 09-157-RGA, 2013 WL 1702159, at \*1 (D. 25 Del. Feb. 25, 2013) is an inapposite one-page opinion excluding expert testimony about a 26 product that the expert-in-question **never analyzed** but instead attempted to offer an 27 opinion based on “inference.” There is no dispute here that Professor Almeroth analyzed 28 thousands of lines of the Arista source code.

1     • In *Fleming v. Escort, Inc.*, No. 1:cv 09-105-BLW, 2012 WL 12539337, at \*3 (D. Idaho  
 2         May 23, 2012), the Court excluded expert opinion where, unlike here, the expert failed to  
 3         explain how the source code he relied on operated. And in *GPNE Corp. v. Apple, Inc.*, No.  
 4         12-cv-02885-LHK, 2014 WL 1494247, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 16, 2014), the court excluded  
 5         a patent damages expert who failed to disclose the methodology (*i.e.*, the math) by which  
 6         he derived his royalty rate, failed to apportion, and relied on licenses that did not support  
 7         his opinions. Unlike *Fleming* and *GPNE*, where the experts offered “black box” opinions,  
 8         here Professor Almeroth has provided a detailed narrative of the operation of the Arista  
 9         parser code with citations to source code, a 225-page exhibit with citations to Arista’s  
 10         source code, and supported that evidence with additional documentary and deposition  
 11         evidence, all of which Arista questioned him about. Opening Rpt. (Wong Decl. Ex. 1) at  
 12         ¶¶ 82-86, Exhibit Copying-6.

13         2. **Professor Almeroth’s Help Description Opinions Are Firmly Rooted In**  
**His Source Code Analysis and Arista Device Testing**

14         Arista also argues that Professor Almeroth’s opinions relating to Arista’s copying of  
 15         Cisco’s “help descriptions” should be excluded because, according to Arista, he “performs no  
 16         source code analysis even suggesting that source code was copied.” Mot. at 6. This argument  
 17         does not accurately reflect Professor Almeroth’s opinions. The 400+ help descriptions that Arista  
 18         copied were literally copied *into* Arista’s source code. Professor Almeroth clearly set forth that  
 19         opinion in, *e.g.*, paragraphs 225 to 230 in his Opening Report. Opening Report (Wong Decl. at  
 20         Ex. 1) at ¶ 225 (“There also is evidence of direct copying by Arista of Cisco’s copyrighted works  
 21         *into* Arista’s EOS programs.”), ¶ 226 (“there is evidence that Arista copied over 500 multi-word  
 22         help descriptions from Cisco *into* its programs, and in doing so copied portions of Cisco’s  
 23         programs.”) (emphasis added). Thus, the help description copying relates to the textual strings  
 24         embedded in Arista’s source code and displayed to a user, not to lines of computer programming  
 25         language surrounding those text strings. Moreover, Arista’s argument fails because it ignores the  
 26         opinions in Professor Almeroth’s reports and deposition testimony where he explained that he did,  
 27         in fact, perform source code analysis. Indeed, Professor Almeroth disclosed his methodology and  
 28

1 findings in his Opening Report. *E.g.*, Opening Rpt. (Wong Decl. Ex. 1) at ¶¶ 37, 47, 225-230.  
 2 And he also submitted a 225-page exhibit summarizing his findings (Copying Exhibit-6) with pin  
 3 cites to Arista source code files and lines that demonstrates precisely where Arista copied Cisco's  
 4 help descriptions into Arista's source code. *See* Copying Exhibit-6. He then explained those  
 5 opinions at his deposition. Almeroth Tr. (Wong Decl. Ex. 3) at 287:18-25. In contrast, Arista's  
 6 expert does not contest the contents of Copying Exhibit-6 and testified that he was never asked "to  
 7 make any sort of fully considered opinion of any kind" to rebut the help description allegations  
 8 and believed that it "would be a waste of time" to ask Arista about those allegations. Black Tr.  
 9 (Neukom Decl. Ex. 3) at 88:14-89:19, 90:15-18, 93:16-20. This Court should not exclude  
 10 Professor Almeroth's opinions simply because Arista is incapable of rebutting them.

11                   **B. Professor Almeroth Should Not Be Excluded From Offering Opinions That**  
**Arista Copied The "Look and Feel" Of Cisco's CLI**

12 Arista contends that Professor Almeroth's opinion that Arista copied Cisco's "look and  
 13 feel" is unreliable because he did not define the "look and feel." Mot. at 7-8. This claim is  
 14 contradicted by Professor Almeroth's reports. According to Professor Almeroth's reports, the  
 15 Cisco CLI "look and feel" is comprised of the command line interface and its displays including  
 16 the command expressions, command outputs, hierarchies, modes, prompts, and help descriptions  
 17 screens. Opening Rpt. (Wong Decl. Ex. 1) at ¶ 65 (outputs), ¶ 174 (commands); Rebuttal  
 18 Rpt. (Wong Decl. Ex. 2) at ¶ 64 (commands, outputs, hierarchies, modes, prompts, help screens,  
 19 documents), ¶¶ 136, 145. Professor Almeroth confirmed this at his deposition. Almeroth Tr.  
 20 (Wong Decl. Ex. 3) at 126:6-18. And according to Professor Almeroth, Arista copied *all* of these  
 21 elements, and thus the "look and feel" of Cisco's CLI, such that "a user sitting in front of an Arista  
 22 CLI would have a hard time knowing that they were not actually using a Cisco CLI." Opening  
 23 Rpt. (Wong Decl. Ex. 1) at ¶ 145. Professor Almeroth reached these conclusions by first testing  
 24 both Cisco's and Arista's CLIs and then reviewing other available evidence, such as Arista  
 25 documents and public statements. For example, Arista has admitted publicly and privately that  
 26 [REDACTED]

27 [REDACTED]  
 28 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]

2 (Wong Decl. Ex. 1) at ¶ 75; Rebuttal Rpt. (Wong Decl. Ex. 2) at ¶ 149. Professor Almeroth also  
 3 looked to third party sources to confirm his opinions and found that industry analysts agreed with  
 4 his opinions. Rebuttal Rpt. (Wong Decl. Ex. 2) at ¶ 150 (“[Arista] created a CLI that looks and  
 5 acts very much like Cisco’s....”; “when I say ‘CISCO like’ I mean it’s 95% the same  
 6 commands”). Accordingly, there is no merit to Arista’s claim that the “works as a whole” were  
 7 not compared to assess differences and similarities (Mot. at 8)—that is precisely what Professor  
 8 Almeroth did, and he confirmed his opinions with additional available evidence.

9 Arista also argues that Professor Almeroth’s “look and feel” opinions should be excluded  
 10 because at his deposition Professor Almeroth mentioned that there are similarities between Cisco’s  
 11 CLI and Arista’s CLI in addition to those at issue here. Mot. at 8. This is nothing more than a  
 12 strawman argument, and it should be rejected. None of Professor Almeroth’s “look and feel”  
 13 opinions rely on any of those additional similarities—they are not mentioned in his reports and do  
 14 not form the basis for his opinions in those reports. Almeroth Tr. (Wong Decl. Ex. 3) at 127:21-  
 15 23 (hypothetically stating that “[o]ther characteristics **might** contribute to a conclusion that there’s  
 16 a look and feel”) (emphasis added). Arista’s copying of additional CLI elements from Cisco that  
 17 Cisco is not asserting in this case does not negate Arista’s infringement of the Cisco copyrighted  
 18 works. *Sheldon v. Metro-Goldwyn Pictures Corp.*, 81 F.2d 49, 56 (2d Cir. 1936). Arista’s  
 19 complaint thus seeks to manufacture an irrelevant dispute, and it should be rejected.

20 **C. Professor Almeroth Should Not Be Excluded From Presenting Factual  
 21 Evidence That Supports Arista’s Liability For Copyright Infringement**

22 Cisco does not dispute that technical experts should not opine on the subjective beliefs of  
 23 others. In its Motion, however, Arista seeks to extend that unremarkable proposition to all *facts* as  
 24 well. Mot. at 9. Arista argues that Professor Almeroth should not be permitted to cite or rely on  
 25 deposition testimony where Arista’s employees admitted to copying Cisco’s CLI or where Arista’s  
 26 executives directed Arista’s employees to copy. *Id.* Arista, however, fails to identify any specific  
 27 instance where Professor Almeroth has offered opinions as to “intent” or the “subjective beliefs”  
 28 of others. *Id.* Arista merely offers a string cite of dozens of paragraphs without identifying what

1 in those many paragraphs it finds objectionable. *Id.* It is black letter law that experts may rely on  
 2 and recite facts that underlie their opinions in order to explain the basis of their opinions to the  
 3 jury. Fed. R. Evid. 703. The Ninth Circuit has repeatedly confirmed this. *United States v.*  
 4 *Cazares*, 788 F.3d 956, 978 (9th Cir. 2015), *cert. denied*, 136 S. Ct. 2484 (2016) (“An expert may  
 5 base an opinion on facts or data in the case that the expert has been made aware of or personally  
 6 observed.”); *Paddock v. Dave Christensen, Inc.*, 745 F.2d 1254, 1261–62 (9th Cir. 1984). Thus, to  
 7 the extent that Arista seeks relief beyond excluding expert testimony on intent—and wants to  
 8 exclude Professor Almeroth from presenting evidence from which the jury could conclude for  
 9 themselves that Arista is liable for copyright infringement—such relief should be denied. Fed. R.  
 10 Evid. 702, Adv. Comm. Notes (2000) (encouraging “the use of expert testimony in non-opinion  
 11 form when counsel believes the trier can itself draw the requisite inference”); *Spreadsheet*  
 12 *Automation Corp. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 587 F. Supp. 2d 794, 803 (E.D. Tex. 2007).

13 **D. Professor Almeroth Should Not Be Excluded From Presenting Opinions  
 14 Firmly Based On Facts**

15 Arista argues that experts should not “vouch” for the credibility of fact witnesses. Mot. at  
 16 9–10. This is another unremarkable proposition, and Cisco has no intention of having any expert  
 17 “vouch” for any fact witness. Thus, to the extent Arista seeks to exclude “vouching” testimony,  
 18 Cisco has no objection so long as the Court’s order is applied to Arista and Cisco equally.

19 Arista’s vague claim, however, that Professor Almeroth “vouches for Cisco’s view of  
 20 disputed facts” lacks merit. Yet again Arista fails to actually identify any instance of this alleged  
 21 “vouching.” *Id.* Arista instead string cites a dozen paragraphs without identifying who Professor  
 22 Almeroth is “vouching” for or what “disputed fact” he is vouching for or even what portion of the  
 23 cited paragraphs might be relevant to Arista’s motion. *Id.* at 10. Arista provides no guidance that  
 24 would enable Cisco or the Court to fully understand the specific facts that Arista believes are  
 25 being “vouched” for. *Id.* [REDACTED]

26 [REDACTED] Paragraph  
 27 [REDACTED]  
 28 98 likewise cites no testimony or any proposition that Professor Almeroth could be said to be

1 improperly “buttressing”—it again reflects his opinions based on the materials he reviewed. *Id.* at  
 2 ¶98. Arista’s vague “vouching” complaints, lacking specifics, should be rejected.

3 **E. Professor Almeroth Should Not Be Excluded From Presenting Undisputed  
 4 Evidence That Arista Copied Cisco’s Technical Documents**

5 Having offered no opinions from its own expert to rebut Professor Almeroth’s opinion that  
 6 Arista copied Cisco’s technical documents, Arista now desperately seeks to exclude those  
 7 uncontested opinions. Mot. at 10. The thrust of Arista’s argument is that because a layperson  
 8 could readily see the textual overlap between Cisco’s documents and Arista’s, Professor Almeroth  
 9 should not be permitted to opine about this form of copying.<sup>3</sup> Arista’s attempt to downplay the  
 10 copying analysis should be rejected. Arista’s argument ignores the expertise and rigor that  
 11 Professor Almeroth put into his analysis in formulating his opinion that Arista **copied** Cisco’s  
 12 documentation. Unlike Arista’s technical expert, Professor Almeroth is an expert in plagiarism—  
 13 he has spent years researching plagiarism and creating tools to assist in plagiarism detection.  
 14 Almeroth Tr. (Neukom Decl. Ex. 2) at 17:12-18:20; Opening Rpt. (Neukom Decl. Ex. 1) at ¶31,  
 15 Opening Rpt. (Wong Decl. Ex. 1) at ¶32. Professor Almeroth testified that in order to actually  
 16 determine that something has been copied, there is a “multistep process” that should be followed  
 17 where detecting “similarity” is just the first step. Almeroth Tr. (Neukom Decl. Ex. 2) 17:12-  
 18 18:20. In order for Professor Almeroth to reach an expert opinion on copying, therefore, he  
 19 needed additional evidence, such as [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] To formulate his opinions Professor Almeroth thus applied his  
 21 scientific, technical, and specialized knowledge in detecting copying. The analysis was not simply  
 22 a side-by-side comparison that any layperson could do.<sup>4</sup> Mot. at 10.

23 **III. CONCLUSION**

24 For the foregoing reasons, Cisco respectfully requests that the Court deny Arista’s Motion.

25 <sup>3</sup> Arista never explains why the copying of text in user documentation is any different than the  
 26 many other similar forms of copying Professor Almeroth opined on that Arista does not challenge.

27 <sup>4</sup> Arista also complains that Professor Almeroth “did not use any specialized tools.” Mot. at  
 28 10. This argument fails not only because Arista failed to explain why those “tools” are necessary  
 or required under the law, but as Professor Almeroth testified, the tools were not necessary to  
 formulate his opinions in this case. Almeroth Tr. (Wong Decl. Ex. 3) at 22:1-23:22.

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Respectfully submitted,

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